

Out of the Computer, Into Print

AGS Program for Wednesday, May 13, 2020
(10:30 A.M. to Noon MT)

Meeting will take place by Zoom teleconference

Title: *Out of the Computer, Into Print*

Speaker: Waleed Ashoo of LithExcel Services

Good morning! So glad you could join us in this Virtual Adventure!

I am Mike Blackledge of the AGS Special Interest Group on Writing and Publishing.

Today, Wednesday, our Albuquerque Genealogical Society is hosting perhaps our first Webinar. Our speaker is Waleed Ashoo, the owner of LithExcel here in Albuquerque, through whom our SIG has published some Family History books.

Most of us have the dream of getting our family history research into some form that we can pass on to our descendants. Along the way we have many times of indecision that cause delay and anxiety. Waleed Ashoo of LithExcel Services has many years' experience in the printing world and will help us see what we need to do and what can be done by others.

The meeting will last about an hour. As an attendee, you can watch and listen, and participate (if you have questions) by chat. All AGS members will be invited.

I want to share with you how I heard about LithExcel and Waleed Ashoo, our presenter this morning.

I had a great boss at Sandia, George Merren. One morning, George called four of us managers into his office for a meeting to explain a crisis we were facing, and then said, "Anyone have any ideas on what we should do?"

Me being me, I jumped in and said, "Yes, I have an idea!" And then I spent about five minutes going over my thoughts, waving my arms and getting very excited.

When I finally finished, George looked around, and said, “OK, anyone have any GOOD ideas?”

Well, a few years ago, I had another idea. I thought it was a good idea, maybe even a great idea. Basically, it was that our Genealogical Society should be encouraging its members to publish their research. All of us enjoy learning about our families, gathering information from many sources – but when it comes to actually converting that research into something that could be captured for others to use as a source, well ... we’re not that good at that.

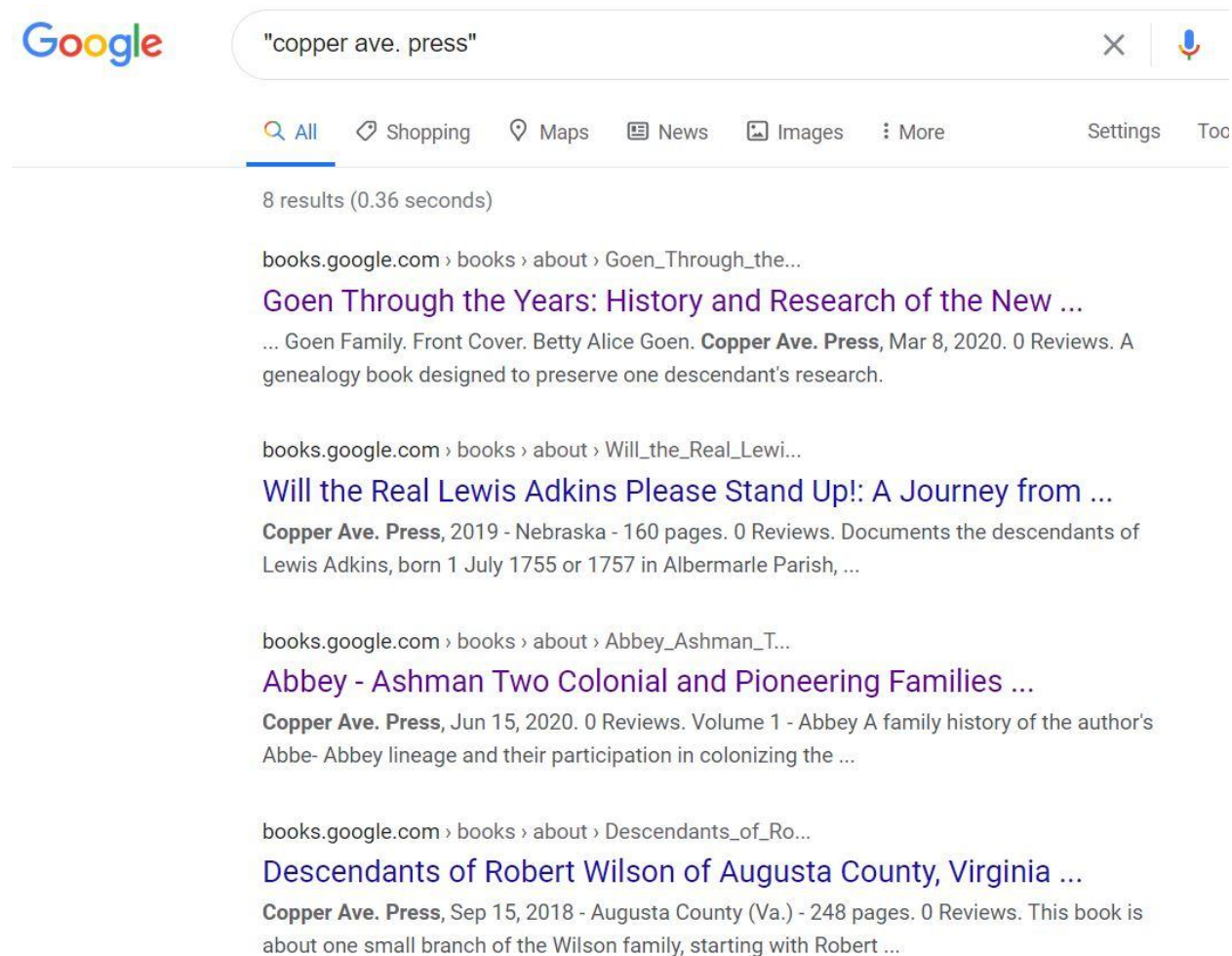
So I went to the AGS Board of Directors at that time, and proposed that the Society should encourage publication by purchasing a block of ISBNs, International Standard Book Numbers, and providing them to our members to encourage publication. (Waleed will explain during his presentation what ISBNs are – if he doesn’t ask him!)

Well, the Board was nervous about my idea. They said, “We’re a non-profit and we need to protect that designation. What if one of our members uses an AGS ISBN and has a best seller?” Well, I told them, that would be a good thing! And they asked, “Or what if one of our AGS members produces a trashy book, that would discredit the AGS?” Well, I told them, I don’t think they would do that. But, in the end, they voted against my idea.

However, something good came out of that rejection. Lynda Katonak came up to me, and said, “I want to publish, but I need someone to light a fire under me.” Marianne Eaton came up to me, and said, “I should publish, but I don’t know how, I don’t know where to begin.”

So in early 2017, I sent out a SurveyMonkey to gauge membership interest in a Special Interest Group on Writing and Publishing. Lo and behold, I found almost 20 members who wanted to publish something from their research. When we started meeting in April 2017, I told them I could all but guarantee to get their book into the Library of Congress. That got their attention. Then we went about creating a Publishing House. To acquire a block of ISBNs, you need to list yourself as a Publishing House. Karen Jones had done that on her own; I had done that on

my own. But now we had a group. We had a contest on what to call our Publishing House. It couldn't be the AGS Publishers, for reasons that I've already mentioned. So we looked out the window, and noticed that the Library is at the corner of 5th and Copper. And the winner of the contest was: **Copper Ave. Press**. To see the results, just Google for "Copper Ave. Press" - Now I'm going to share my screen with you:



[What follows are images from three of the genealogy books that AGS members have published under Copper Ave. Press]

Goen Through the Years

History and Research of the New Mexico Goen Family



Written by *Betty Alice Goen*

Research and Collaboration with *Paul Lynn Goen*

The New Mexico Goen Family

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Goen Through the Years
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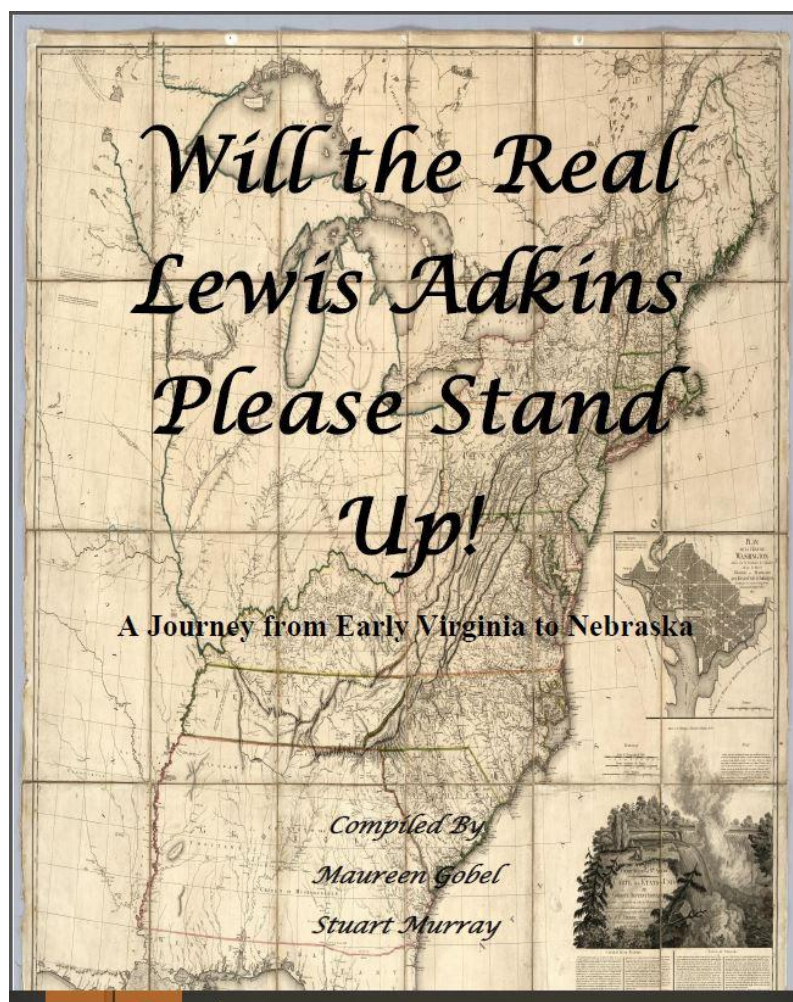
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*Will The Real Lewis
Adkins Please Stand
Up!*

*A Journey from Early Virginia to
Nebraska*

*Maureen Gobel
Stuart Murray*

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Stuart Murray

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A Journey from Early Virginia to Nebraska

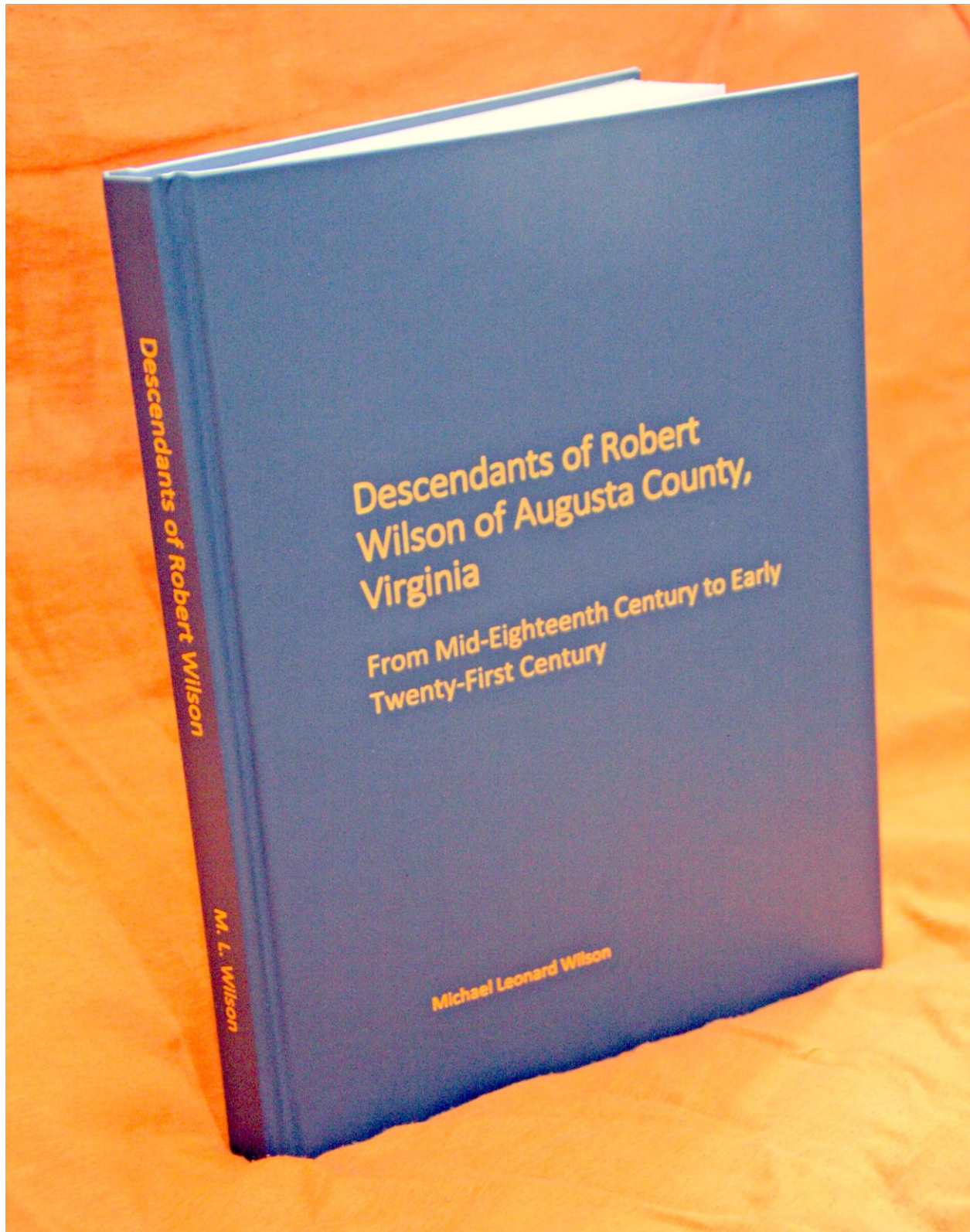
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Descendants of Robert Wilson of Augusta County, Virginia

From Mid-Eighteenth Century to Early
Twenty-First Century

Michael Leonard Wilson

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Now let's join the presentation by Waleed – due to technical difficulties, we will join about 20 minutes into his talk.